Criminal Cases.

51. In North Thána a forest guard was prosecuted for receiving bribes, convicted and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

In the South Thána Division a writer guard was prosecuted for a similar offence, but the case was not decided before the end of the year.

In the Panch Mahals two guards were convicted and fined Rs. 20 each for assaulting their superior officer, the round guard.

A guard was also prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment for receiving a bribe from a Bhil in the Dohad Range.

Five persons were prosecuted for obstructing forest officers in connection with the building of a forest post at Rena in the Godhra Range, and two of them were mulcted in a fine of Rs. 50 each, one Rs. 30, and the fourth Rs. 20. The fifth was discharged.

(*c*).—IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(*1*).—*Natural Reproduction.*

52. Generally speaking natural reproduction by seed was not satisfactory during the year for want of rain at the close of the monsoon. However it is reported that in certain localities where the ground was moist, reproduction was fairly good. The reproduction by coppice shoots in coupes was also fairly good. It is observed that where the contractors started felling operations in coupes early in September and October, the teak shoots threw out very strong coppice shoots, but where the fellings were delayed until after December the coppice shoots were found to be poor and in many cases no shoots appeared at all.

(*2*).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

53. Transplanting of plants and broad-casting of seed were done by subordinates as usual, but the results were very poor owing to failure of rain.

54. The nursery started last year at Godhra in the Panch Mahals Division has been in full working order, several thousands of plants of teak and other species have been raised and are being prepared for transplantation. The fruit-tree plants, seed for which was purchased with the funds given by the Collector from local funds, are reported to be in a flourishing condition. This nursery has been provided with a Máli to look after the sowing operations, and it has been fitted up with watering apparatus.

The nursery at Vejalpur in the Surat Division is also doing well. Thousands of transplants raised in this nursery have been planted out in several reserves in the Bulsár Range.

(*3*).—*Early Thinnings.*

55. No such operations are carried out in this Circle and they are not necessary.

(*4*).—*Other operations for the improvement of the growing stock.*

56. In all the Divisions creeper-cutting was undertaken to improve the growing stock. In the Thána Division it was done both by the guards and paid labour. The cost thus incurred in the three Thána Divisions amounted to Rs. 633. With this creeper-cutting, a curious fact has been reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, South Thána. He says that in the Murbád and Sháhápur Ranges the wild tribes assisted materially in the destruction of creepers by digging up the roots for food. This particular climber is botanically termed Dioscorea bulbifera.

(*5*).—*Experiments.*

57. There were no experiments worth recording.

(*d*).—EXTRACTION AND TRANSPORT OF MAJOR FOREST PRODUCE BY LAND OR WATER.

58. There is nothing special to record under this head.